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February 7, 2007

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Mr. Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-I
P.O. Box 94236
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Snow:

Re: SAWPA - Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Support DWR and SWRCB Additional Funding Request

On January 23rd and January 30th, the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board held workshops in Northern and Southern California to present their recommendations for additional projects to be funded under the first funding cycle of State Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation Grant Program. **We are supportive of the DWR and SWRCB Proposition 50 Implementation Grant additional funding recommendations.** This recommended action will effectively leverage local funds that are available to implement the projects now, recognize the significant effort and expense associated with preparing meritorious grant applications through the two-step grant application process, and address concerns regarding the north-south funding split. We believe the recommendation for increased first round funding is based on the best interests of the State.

The Santa Ana Watershed Region and particularly the Inland Empire sub-area are critical to the continued economic progress of the State. Beyond any other region in the state, the rapidly growing population and development in the Santa Ana Watershed has placed increased strains upon critical water infrastructure. The projects included in the SAWPA grant application will help to address these needs to assure water reliability and drought protection for the future. By the use of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan approach spearheaded originally by SAWPA, multiple benefits to water supply, water quality improvement and environmental restoration will be implemented.

As a stakeholder and strong supporter of the Santa Ana IRWMP and the priority projects for the region included in its Proposition 50, Chapter 8 IRWMP grant application, **we support the findings of DWR staff and SWRCB staff that it is important to support the SAWPA grant submittal and other Step 2 grant applicants for inclusion in the first funding cycle of Proposition 50.**

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Jeske
Director, Public Works and Community Services Agency